

**BEFORE THE STATE ETHICS COMMISSION
STATE OF GEORGIA**

IN THE MATTER OF:

Regina Thomas

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CASE NO.

PC2008-0034

CONSENT ORDER

This matter comes before the State Ethics Commission (Commission), pursuant to a probable cause investigation initiated on February 27, 2008, alleging violations of the Ethics in Government Act (Act). Respondent waived her right to a preliminary hearing on July 4, 2008. Now, prior to an Administrative Procedure Act hearing, Respondent and the Commission agree to resolve this matter by way of Consent Order (Order).

FINDINGS OF FACT

Respondent was an incumbent candidate for State Senate of District 2 and qualified to run for office on April, 24 2006. Respondent won the election. Respondent admits she failed to file her Personal Financial Disclosure Statement (PFDS) for the 2005 calendar year within 15 days following the date of qualifying as a candidate, and Respondent also admits she failed to file her PFDS for the 2006 calendar year by July 1, 2007, which is a non-election year in which Respondent held office.

During both the 2005 and 2006 calendar years, Respondent's spouse had a real property interests with a fair market value of over \$10,000, said property being located in Chatham County. Additionally, Respondent was employed as a State Senator, and Respondent had a spouse who was retired. Respondent has admitted all of these facts.

Respondent subsequently filed her PFDS for the 2005 and 2006 calendar years on April 4, 2008. In the aforementioned filings, Respondent disclosed her employment information and spouse's employment information, but Respondent failed to disclose her spouse's interest in real property. Thereafter, Respondent amended her PFDS for the 2005 and 2006 calendar years on January 2, 2009 to disclose her spouse's interest in real property.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

Respondent's failure to timely file a PFDS for the 2005 and 2006 calendar years constitutes two violations of O.C.G.A. § 21-5-50(a). Because Respondent failed to file the aforementioned PFDS, Respondent failed to timely disclose the accompanying information required by the Act.

Respondent committed two violations of O.C.G.A. § 21-5-50(b)(4)(B) by failing to disclose the tract of real property in which her spouse has a direct ownership interest of over \$10,000.00. Additionally, Respondent committed two violations of O.C.G.A. § 21-5-50(b)(5) by failing to timely identify her occupation, employer, and the principal activity and address of such employer. Last, Respondent also violated O.C.G.A. § 21-5-50(b)(6) twice by failing to identify Respondent's spouse's name and occupation.

SANCTION

The Respondent is hereby ordered and agrees to pay a total civil penalty of \$2,500: \$250 within six months of the date of this Order, and \$2,250 within a year of the date of this Order. The civil penalty must be paid out of Respondent's personal funds and not those of her campaign. Respondent is further ordered to cease and desist from any and all actions that violate the Act.

AGREEMENT

Respondent represents that the foregoing findings of fact are true, agrees to the conclusions of law, and further agrees to abide by all terms herein. By signing this Order, Respondent waives any right to an appeal pursuant to the procedures outlined in O.C.G.A. § 50-13-1, *et seq.* Failure to comply with the terms herein absent good faith attempts to comply will constitute a willful and knowing violation of said terms by the Respondent. Respondent's failure to comply with the terms herein shall constitute a breach of this agreement and thereby authorize the Commission to seek an enforcement action against the Respondent. The parties agree that all costs and attorney fees incurred by the Commission in an enforcement action shall be assessed against the Respondent pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 21-5-6(b)(14)(C).

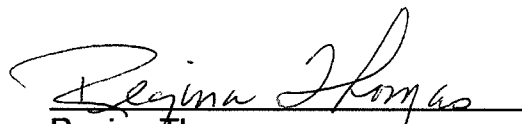
The Commission adopts the foregoing statements and conclusions as the Commission's findings of fact and conclusions of law, and orders the implementation of the terms of this Consent Order.

Signatures attested to on this 23rd day
of March, 2009.

RESPONDENT

By: _____

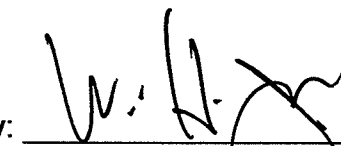



Regina Thomas

SO ORDERED this 23rd day of March, 2009.
15th October

STATE ETHICS COMMISSION

By: _____


William H. Jordan
Chairman

Yasha Heidari
Commission Attorney